

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

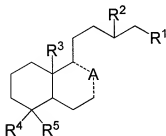
Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 23 to page 2, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

It has been also found that hot water extract or extracts in ethanol, hexane and so forth of stem, branch, leaf, etc. of *Cistaceae* such as *Cistus ladaniferus* L., *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus monoperiensis* ~~*monspeliensis*~~ L., *Cistus salvifolius*, etc. have a strong suppressive action over melanin production, cell activation action and antibacterial action, and that these actions were ascribable to labdenic acids. It has been still also found that labd-7-en-15-oic acid, labd-8(17)-en-15-oic acid, and labd-8-en-15-oic acid, which are obtained by molecular distillation of the extracts or crude labdenic acids, have the strong suppressive action over melanin production, cell activation action, antibacterial action, etc. It has still also been found that salts, methyl and ethyl esters, and reduced products of these compounds have similar activities (Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication "Tokkaihei" No. 11-302219, etc.).

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 7 to page 3, line 31 with the following amended paragraph:

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a composition comprising:

(A) one, or two or more compounds represented by formula (1) below:



[[[]] in formula (1), R¹ represents -CH₂OH or COOR⁶, R⁶ represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl group having the number of carbon atoms of 1 to 3, or a cation capable of forming a salt with COO⁻, each of R² to R⁵ independently represents a hydrogen atom or methyl group, and . . . A . . . represents =C(CH₃)-, -C(CH₃)=, -C(=CH₂)-, -CH(CH₃)- or -C(OH)(CH₃)-; and

(B) one, or two or more medicinal ingredients selected from the group consisting of asparagus extract, *Angelica acutiloba* extract, *Morus bombycis* extract, *Cnidium officinale* extract, *Rosa multiflora* extract, *Rubus idaeus* extract, *Sophora flavescens* extract, *Acanthopanax senticosus* extract, coffee extract, rice bran extract, wheat germ extract, *Asarum sieboldii* extract, *Crataegus cuneata* extract, lily extract, *Paeonia lactiflora* extract, tea extract, molasses extract, grape extract, *Humulus lupulus* extract, *Rosa rugosa* extract, *Chaenomeles sinensis* extract, *Scutellaria baicalensis* extract, algae extract, dibutyl hydroxy toluene, butyl hydroxy anisole, mannitol, β-carotene, quercetin, quercitrin, rutin, vitamin E and its derivatives, *Geranium thungergii* extract, *Saxifraga* extract, *Cassia mimosoides* extract, melissa extract, glycyrrhizic acid and its derivatives, glycyrrhetic acid and its derivatives, vitamin B and its

derivatives, *Gentiana lutea* extract, *Houttuynia cordata* extract, *Paeonia suffruticosa* extract, aloe extract, *Arnica montana* extract, *Hypericum* extract, *Phellodendron amurense* extract, *Lonicera japonica* extract, salvia extract, *betula alba* extract, *Perilla* extract, *Mugwort* extract, *Matricaria chamomilla* extract, comfrey extract, *Sanguisorba officinalis* extract, watercress extract, *Calendula officinalis* extract, *Sambucus* extract, *Typha angustifolia* extract, *Sapindus mukerossi* extract, *Eucalyptus* extract, *Astragalus sinicus* extract, vitamin A and its derivatives, tartaric acid, malic acid, glycolic acid, succinic acid, serine, glutamic acid, hydroxyproline, theanine, pyrrolidone carboxylic acid, *Cordyceps sinensis* extract, soybean extract, *Panax ginseng* extract, barley extract, Japanese beech sprout extract, *Ginkgo biloba* extract, *Centella asiatica* extract, yeast extract, *Lactobacillus* extract, *Bifidus* extract, 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone, 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone-5-sulfonic acid, sodium 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone-5-sulfonate, 2-ethylhexyl p-methoxycinnamate, 4-tert-butyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane, *Althaea officinalis* extract, *Acorus calamus* extract, *Rehmannia glutinosa* extract, *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract, *Malva sylvestris* extract, *Prunus armeniaca* extract, lime extract, raspberry extract, almond extract, tomato extract, phospholipid and its derivatives, *Hydrangea serrata* extract, *Tussilago farfara* extract, quince seed extract, *Glycyrrhiza glabra* extract, *Coix lachryma-jobi* extract, blackcurrant fruit extract, *Inula britannica* extract, cranberry fruit extract, *Mucuna birdwoodiana* extract, *betula alba* sap, *Alnus firma* extract, cactus extract, *Momordica grosvenorii* extract, astaxanthin and its derivatives, and rutin derivatives.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 19-29 with the following amended paragraph:

According to one embodiment of the present invention, there are provided composition, wherein the compound represented by formula (1) is a compound extracted from one, or two or more plants selected from the plant group consisting of *Cistaceae* including *Cistus ladaniferus* L., *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus monoperiensis monspeliensis* L. and *Cistus salvifolius*, or a compound prepared from the extracted compound; and a composition, being blended with one, or two or more extracts, comprising the compound represented by formula (1), selected from the plant group consisting of *Cistaceae* including *Cistus ladaniferus* L., *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus monoperiensis monspeliensis* L. and *Cistus salvifolius*.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 10-16 with the following amended paragraph:

There is no limitation on species of plants from which the compounds represented by the above-described formula (1) are extracted, provided that they contain such compounds, and it is particularly advantageous to use plant body of *Cistus ladaniferus* L., *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus monoperiensis monspeliensis* L., *Cistus salvifolius* (*Cistaceae*). It is allowable to use them in a singular manner, or in combination of two or more species.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 10-25 with the following amended paragraph:

Thus-obtained extracts of stems, branches, leaves and so forth of *Cistaceae* such as *Cistus ladaniferus* L., *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus*—~~*monoperiensis*~~ *monspeliensis* L., *Cistus salvifolius* and so forth, and acid, methyl ester and ethyl ester obtained from the extracts, or mixtures containing two or more of them can be used as ingredient (A) in the present invention. That is, embodiments of the external preparations for skin of the present invention include those comprising, as ingredient (A), (i) hot water extract or organic solvent (ethanol, hexane, etc.) extract of *Cistaceae* such as *Cistus ladaniferus* L., *Cistus creticus* L., *Cistus* ~~*monoperiensis*~~ *monspeliensis* L., *Cistus salvifolius*, etc.; (ii) one, or two or more selected from labd-7-en-15-oic acid, labd-8(17)-en-15-oic acid, and labd-8-en-15-oic acid, obtained by molecular distillation of the extracts of above-described (i) or crude labdonic acids; (iii) salt, methyl ester or ethyl ester of the above-described (ii); and (iv) reduced products of the above-described (iii).